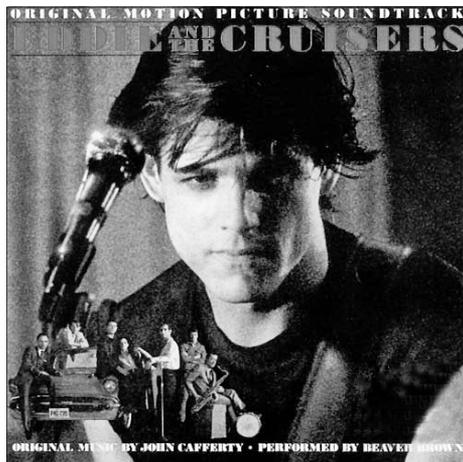




JUST FOR THE RECORD

by Dennis Barker



Soundtrack: *Eddie and the Cruisers* (John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band)

As a rule, I don't care much for movie soundtracks. More often than not, they tend to be a rehash of old rock & roll, Broadway musicals or other popular material, trading on the creativity of musical artists to evoke familiarity or elicit positive reactions to the film. There are of course exceptions, one of my favorites being the soundtrack from the 1983 embassy pictures film "Eddie and the Cruisers".

I can't say I loved the movie. Although a bit predictable and hokey, it's still not a bad way to spend a couple of hours on Sunday afternoon. But I did love the original music.

Contrary to Oscar Wilde, I'm not sure this story of a New Jersey bar band isn't more art imitating life, than vice versa. Providing the original music for the saga of Eddie Wilson was *John Cafferty and the Beaver Brown Band*, itself, a 1970's / 80's Rhode Island bar band.

Although the Cruiser's story chronicled the evolution of a 1950's band into 60's acid rock, the sound track created by Cafferty was more Springsteen-esque, reflecting the popularity of the New Jersey rocker during the early 80's. John Cafferty wrote and performed 10 original songs for Eddie and the Cruisers, with the soundtrack album from the film reaching the top 10 on Billboard and producing a #7 hit single hit (On the Dark Side).

Cafferty's work on Eddie and the Cruisers would bring his band national attention, leading to the group's 1985 follow-up album *Tough All Over*. Although a song from that album (Voice of America's Sons), was featured on the soundtrack of the Sylvester Stallone movie *Cobra*, Eddie and the Cruisers would remain the only true bright spot in an otherwise journeyman career. Over the next few years, the Beaver Brown Band would make several fruitless attempts to cash in on the Eddie and the cruisers connection, but in the end, would fade from sight.

If you would like to witness Art imitating life a check out these links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmf8rZfGTKQ&feature=related> (Eddie & the Cruisers)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgloaS4NGyM&feature=related> (John Cafferty)

PS: In an art imitates art moment, Brown Beaver sax player Michael "Tunes" Antunes appears in the film as the Cruiser's sax player Wendell Newton.

Soundtrack: *Eddie and the Cruisers* SCOTTI BROTHERS #38929 (RELEASED FALL of 1984)

Online auction sales of this record indicate values of original copies in near mint condition, with original cover & sleeve, at \$7 to \$10.

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